<u>REMARKS</u>

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated January 11, 2007. Claims 1 to 5 and 7 to 9 remain pending in the application, of which Claims 1, 7 and 8 are independent. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claims 1 to 5 and 7 to 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) over EP 1 286 292 (Murakami). Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

The present invention relates to sharing images. According to the invention, a user sets a disclosure data in a server of when image data, which has been uploaded to the server, is to be disclosed. The uploaded image data is processed to create processed image data (e.g., mosaic, embossed, or wipe processing). Then, a time ticked in the server is compared with the set disclosure date. If the time ticked is determined to be earlier than the set disclosure date (e.g., an updating interval set to update the processing prior to the set date), Web page information linked to the processed image data is created and transmitted to a recipient before the set disclosure date (see, e.g., Fig. 7, steps S701 and S703 to S711). In contrast, when the time ticked in the server apparatus is determined to be the set disclosure date, Web page information linked to the uploaded image data is created and is transmitted to the recipient on the set disclosure date. (see, e.g., Fig. 7, steps S701, S702 and S711)

Referring specifically to the claims, Claim 1 is directed to a method of controlling a server apparatus which stores in a memory image data received via a network, comprising the steps of setting a disclosure date of the received image data, processing the

received image data so as to create processed image data, comparing a time ticked in the server apparatus and the set disclosure date, creating Web page information linked to the processed image data when the time ticked in the server apparatus is determined to be earlier than the set disclosure date, and creating Web page information linked to the received image data when the time ticked in the server apparatus is determined to be the set disclosure date, and transmitting, via the network, the created Web page information linked to the processed image data before the set disclosure date, and transmitting the created Web page information linked to the received image data on the set disclosure date, to a specified recipient.

Claims 7 and 8 are computer medium and apparatus claims, respectively, that substantially correspond to Claim 1.

The applied art of Murakami is not seen to disclose or to suggest the features of the present invention, and in particular, is not seen to disclose or to suggest at least the features of creating Web page information linked to processed image data when a time ticked in a server apparatus is determined to be earlier than a set disclosure date, creating Web page information linked to received image data when the time ticked in the server is determined to be the set disclosure date, and transmitting the created Web page information linked to the processed image data before the set disclosure date to a specified recipient, and transmitting the created Web page information linked to the received image data on the set disclosure date to the specified recipient.

Murakami merely disclose that a server 8 receives e-mail with an attached file from a client apparatus 101 and discloses that the attached file is transmitted to another client apparatus 107 in response to access via a Web server 105 by using a URL.

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Murakami also discloses performing image processing to the attached file (embodiment 4, para. 0099) and transmitting an e-mail with an attached image on a designated data and time (embodiment 3, para. 0087). Thus, Murakami merely teaches transmitting image data, whether it be processed image data or original image data, on a designated date and time. Murakami is not, however, seen to teach creating Web page information linked to processed image data when a time ticked in a server apparatus is determined to be earlier than a set disclosure date, and transmitting the created Web page information linked to the processed image data before the set disclosure date to a specified recipient.

Applicants note that the Office Action asserts that, since the intended use language "for displaying processed image data" is optional and not afforded any patentable weight, the language has been clarified and recited in a more positive manner. Specifically, the claims recite creating Web page information linked to processed image data, or linked to received image data. Thus, patentable weight should be afforded to the claimed elements.

In view of the foregoing deficiencies of the applied art, Claims 1 to 5 and 7 to 9 are not believed to be anticipated by Murakami.

No other matters having been raised, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office by telephone at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,

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